



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

July, 2014

REGISTRATION & CAPACITY:

All refuge programs are FREE, but space may be limited. Preregistration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. **Please Note:** If a program requires preregistration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

Programs conducted in the auditorium are limited to 75 attendees. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission of additional attendees will stop when capacity has been reached.

Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and/or insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Saturday, July 12th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, July 13th @ 1:00 pm;

Saturday, July 19th @ 9:30 am; Saturday, July 26th @ 9:30 am; and Sunday, July 27th @ 1:00 pm

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will present an “up close and personal” look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 8 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle – based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge. ***Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation. *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member. Please call (978) 465-5753; to register for this program.***

NEW! – Refuge Bicycle Tours

Friday, July 11th @ 9:00 am; Friday, July 18th @ 9:00 am; Friday, July 25 @ 9:00 am; and Tuesday, July 29th @ 9:00 am

Experience the refuge from the unique perspective of your very own bicycle! Starting at the visitor contact station at Lot 1, the ranger-led group will gradually make its way south along the paved portion of the refuge’s Wildlife Drive, stopping at various points along the way to view wildlife, hear

stories of Plum Island's past, and learn about the inner workings of a national wildlife refuge. This is an "out and back" tour. The distance covered will depend on how many stops are made and how much time is spent at each stop. Tour duration will be about 2 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. **Each participant must provide a bicycle, helmet, and water bottle.** Participants may also wish to bring insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera (if these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station. Limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration required.**

The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, July 12th at 1:30 pm in the visitor center auditorium

The Photographic Society welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography – whether you are a total novice or earn a living by taking pictures! The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include special presentations, slide shows (of members' work), intra-club mentoring and training, photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required.**

"Undercover with the Piping Plover" – Managing a Threatened Species

Tuesday, July 1st @9:00 am and Wednesday, July 9th @ 9:00 am

The federally – threatened Atlantic coast piping plover nests and raises its young on Plum Island's beaches from April through August. Join a refuge ranger for a chance to glimpse this native species in its wild habitat and to hear the story of how biologists work to conserve the plover under the Endangered Species Act. As conditions permit, participants will have an opportunity to view the plovers on the beach, from a safe distance, using a refuge-provided spotting scope. Participants are encouraged to bring a pair of binoculars, a spotting scope, and/or a camera. Meet the ranger on the deck of the visitor contact station at the refuge's Lot 1. Program is appropriate for adults and older children and does involve a moderate amount of walking over sandy beach. Each session is limited to 10 participants. **Preregistration is required.**

Tide Pool Discoveries

Wednesday, July 2nd @9:00 am; Monday, July 7th @12:30 pm; Monday, July 21st @ 1:00 pm; and Thursday, July 31st @9:00 am

For generations children have enjoyed exploring tide pools and discovering the fascinating plants and animals that live in this realm between the tides. A refuge ranger will guide this hands-on program. Appropriate for children age 5 – 10. Each session is limited to 15 children. Each session is approximately 2 hours long, allowing time for travel to and from the tide pool location. Meet the ranger at the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. **Parent/guardian must remain with his/her child for the entire duration of this program. Preregistration is required for this program.**

These Visitor Center Exhibits Change Monthly:

Artist of the Month Gallery: Each month a different photographer or artist displays their nature and/or wildlife-related fine art in the refuge visitor center auditorium. Susana Bamford is July's Artist of the Month. She is primarily an oil painter who enjoys the challenge of painting on location (plein air). Her impressions of various landscapes often include manmade structures within a natural environment. She is intrigued by the solid forms constructed by man which exist within the larger context of nature's varied shapes, colors, and light effects. Through her representational-impressionistic style, Susana attempts to render as accurately as possible the colors she sees with their light and shadow contrasts.

Photographic Society Slide Show: Just inside the visitor center's front door is a large video monitor that displays the latest nature and wildlife-themed slide show that was produced by members of the refuge's very own photo club. A new slide show, set to music, and focusing on a unique theme, is produced each month.